

DAU Fort Belvoir Campus Stages Wargaming Simulation for Acquisition Workforce

AcqSim — Capstone of DSMC's New PMT-302N Course, Now Under Development

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Warfighters from all branches of service constantly prepare themselves and their equipment for real-world situations by evaluation and training. They go into the field, given a hypothetical situation, and test themselves and equipment for any flaws, or for enhancement of their technical and tactical skills.

Increasingly, civilian members of the government-industry acquisition workforce are becoming aware of, and involved in, the benefits of such evaluation and training. Modeling and simulation is emerging as a key player in exercises designed to simulate the real world in which soldiers (and sometimes civilians) must train and fight.

Wargaming Comes to DAU

In September, the Defense Acquisition University Fort Belvoir campus participated in AcqSim, a wargaming simulation designed to model real-world Acquisition Simulation.

During the five-day exercise, Advanced Program Management Course (APMC) students, Defense Systems Management College (DSMC) faculty, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) representatives, Department of Navy officials, and representatives from industry — Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and Athena Strategies — all had a chance to deal with each other in a real-world scenario.



From left: Nicci-Ann Gervasoni, Raytheon Systems; William "Bill" Erie, Associate Dean of Faculty, DSMC; Dr. Kathleen Robertson, Athena Strategies; Rich Matzko, Strategic and Tactical Systems, Electronic Warfare, OUSD(AT&L).

Briefly, AcqSim allowed them the opportunity to develop and examine the effectiveness of program acquisition strategy and baseline decisions over the developmental life of a program. In addition to affording them unique insight into the long-term effects and outcomes of negotiations with industry, Congress, and the Services, AcqSim also promoted the following objectives:

- Provide insights into contractor financial dynamics and decision making.
- Gain better sense of the acquisition process and how to relate to other government entities such as Congress.
- Foster team building within program management teams.

Teams in the simulation included three program offices, three contractors, DoD/OSD, and Congress. The three simulation Program Manager teams each included roles as the Program Manager, Deputy Program Manager, Business Financial Manager, engineer, contracting officer, and logistician. Three Virtual

Lowery is a staff writer and photojournalist for Program Manager magazine, Defense Acquisition University Press, Fort Belvoir, Va.

From left: Ben Wosoogh, APMC student; Dr. John L. "Jack" Dwyer, Professor, Faculty Division, DSMC; Air Force Maj. Jim Lee, APMC student; Scott Kinney, APMC student.



"The interaction between participant, government people, and industry representatives was probably the most fun," Erie said in retrospect. "Each side realistically played their role but was then able to discuss the 'why' of what they had done."

Erie also noted that there was a need for such an exercise to better assist the warfighter in the field. "Acquisition supports the warfighters by giving them the tools that they need. In the same way, warfighters learn from doing in training

"AcqSim will be the capstone of a new course named PMT-302N ... This will become a part of the DSMC curriculum. Simulations may be used across other DAU coursework if applicable and useful."

— Bill Erie
DSMC Associate
Dean of Faculty



From left: Jennifer Weaver, Applied Lojix; Walt Squire, Strategic and Tactical Systems, Land Warfare, OUSD(AT&L); Norm McDaniel, Chair, Program Management and Leadership Department, DSMC; Dr. Paris Genalis, Strategic and Tactical Systems, Naval Warfare, OUSD(AT&L).

Companies represented aircraft and electronics manufacturers and subcontractors. A review team representing DoD/OSD played the part as the review board for team status and provided executive-level guidance. The last simulation team

represented congressional staffers, which incorporated the political importance of providing a strong aircraft industry, employment support in certain congressional districts, and a forum for congressional inquiries.

and simulation, the acquisition workforce learns by doing. It provides an environment where learning becomes a reality."

The test of this simulation, according to feedback from the players, was considered a positive and successful exercise. Still under refinement, the AcqSim concept will be improved and incorporated as the capstone event into a new course for program managers, PMT-302N, that is currently under development.

Editor's Note: For more information about AcqSim, contact erie_bill@dau.mil.